

Excerpts from my field diary (July 2009 onwards)

Pankaj Oudhia

Miracles of Mucuna are on for farmers to newly wed couples.

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“How much I should pay for the two Kg of Mucuna seeds?” I asked to the natives in Taurenga region. “It is very difficult task to harvest black Mucuna from forest. Lot of hard work and patience are required. You must pay atleast 200 to 250 Rs. for seeds.” They suggested. I paid 300 Rs. to the collector. He informed that it is pure type and rich in medicinal properties.



“If you use it as sex tonic it will give very good results. I can guarantee you.” He claimed. I was not purchasing it for making medicines.

After returning back I gifted it to my father. His plan is to sow the seeds in periphery of farmland specially in spots from where monkeys, wild boar and cattle try to enter and destroy standing crops. The hairy pods of Mucuna are full of irritating hairs. Human beings as well as animals everyone knows that it is wise to keep distance with this plant specially when flowering and fruiting are in progress. I have mentioned in previous research documents that in my village Khudmudi wild boars were present in early days when there was forest. But from last few decades forest has disappeared and everywhere crop fields are visible. Due to decreasing forest cover and increasing population pressure in far forest, now wild animals like wild boars are migrating to villages like Khudmudi where no forest cover is present, in search of water and food. They are solely dependent on crops. Farmers of present generation are not prepared for it. Their fields are unfenced. Now the nuisance of wild animals is becoming curse for crops. I am

helping the farmers to keep these wild creatures at bay with the help of live fence and Mucuna like irritating herbs.



Germination is not a problem in case of Mucuna. I have noted cent-percent germination in almost all cases. Once established it spreads like wild fire. I cultivated this herb in large areas with the help of herb growers. There is a good demand of Mucuna in national and international herb markets. These markets are mainly dependent on wild sources. Due to increasing scarcity of herb collectors and decreasing Mucuna population in forest, now markets are seeing with much hope to farmers. For farmers it is profit giving crop. Its cultivation is easy and not much costly. There is fixed market. Many years back farmers started its cultivation in order to fulfill the demand of seed material. Now seeds are available for cultivation. At present they are growing it in isolated patches. As result, they have to sell their produce through marketing channel having so many middlemen. As result they get little profit. When they will cultivate it in large areas they can earn much from it and negotiate to end buyers directly for good prices.



Most of the farmers cultivating this crop under my guidance are aware of its use for their family and cattle in case of poor market rates. For them it is life saving drug. It makes soil fertile and every part of Mucuna is having some use. Through my Allelopathic research I have identified many potential herbal extract and leachate having capacity to increase the production of this crop. [Farmers are getting benefit from it.](#)

Most of the farmers prefer to white seeded Mucuna. This type is lacking irritating pod hairs. They harvest it without any problem. But in market they get less price for it as compared to black seeded type. The Traditional Healers having expertise in use of Mucuna harvest black type by adopting special methods. They consume specific herbs and herbal combinations before harvest. Due to its effects pod hairs fail to cause any type of irritation. My farmers are aware of these methods.

My father is planning to use it as live fence only. He is interested other medicinal crops giving higher returns. He is hoping that this live fence will be effective for wild animals. I am not much hopeful. I feel that instead of adopting one herb we must use different types of herbs in different

situations. Accepting my concept he is now making plan to test all types of protection measures in one spot in order to compare its efficacy.

While informing the herb collector for requirement of Mucuna seeds I clearly told him to collect its roots along with seeds. He followed it and I got many pieces of roots along with seeds. These root pieces are precious gift for newly wed couples. I have presented most of it to family friends.

“It’s working. It’s a miracle. We are exhausted.” I received such calls yesterday. I presented them Mucuna seed powder for miracle without exhaustion. Now roots will do miracle and seeds will avoid exhaustion.

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